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21 February 1967

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SUBJECT: Project [REDACTED] - Priority Assistance

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1. The several bidders attending the Bidders' Conference for Project [REDACTED] stated that a DX priority rating would be necessary to complete the development within the time schedule required. [REDACTED] also confirmed its need for priority assistance and we are at this time getting from them a list of the items of equipment or the components which the contractor believes will require very high priority assistance.

2. A DX priority rating is the highest industrial rating possible under the existing priorities and allocations system. In order to get a DX rating for a specific program, the need must be heavily supported. The package is reviewed by Mr. Stanley Mitelski, Chief, Priority and Allocations in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Installations and Logistics, Department of Defense. His review of the requirement includes coordination with JCS to determine the impact of the new requirement on other high priority military programs. The package is then reviewed by Mr. Ignatius, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations and Logistics. He forwards the package to the Secretary of Defense with his position and recommendations. If the Secretary of Defense approves, it goes to the National Security Council and to the President. If the President approves, he directs the Secretary of Defense to place the program on the Defense Master Urgency List. Thereafter, contracts issued under the approved program carry the DX priority rating.

3. As may be seen, this is a very formal and tedious route requiring heavy documentation and very strong support. There is an alternative route which is to take each priority problem, on a case-by-case basis, directly to Mr. Mitelski requesting priority assistance. In the past the Office of Logistics has been successful in most cases in getting the cooperation of

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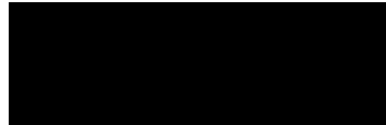
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Mr. Mitelski on priority problems. This procedure would mean that Project [REDACTED] would not be assigned a DX rating as such, but each time the contractor or his sub-contractors encounter a priority problem, the case would be presented to Mr. Mitelski for assistance.

4. The only other route is direct to the President or Vice President requesting that the program be placed on the Master Urgency List.

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